Setting up of Human Rights Courts in States

* 51. SHRI RANGANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have set up "Human Rights" courts as provided in Section 30 of the Protection of Human Rights Act; and

(b) whether it would not be both convenient and expeditious if the said courts are vested with civil and criminal jurisdiction to handle complaints of violation of human rights and claim of compensation, so that complete justice may be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) A per information available, the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura have already notified such Courts.

(b) Under section 30 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, the State Governments may with the concurrence of Chief Justice of the concerned High Court, by a notification specify for each district a Human Rights Court to try the offences arising out of the violation of Human Rights.

The National Human Rights Commission has proposed that in order to give a better focus to this laudable provision and to provide justice at the district level itself in case of human rights violations, the section needs amendment. This proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Enhancing security after terrorist attack in J and K Assembly

* 52. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have enhanced the security after the terrorist attack on Jammu and Kashmir Assembly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of arrests taken place after this incident;

(d) what steps Government have taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents in the State;

(e) whether Government have started any political process in recent past to ensure peace in the Kashmir Valley; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly complex at Srinagar, the State Government has reported to have taken various measures to strengthen the security of vulnerable places prone to such attacks. These measures include a more rigorous patrolloing and access control; stronger barricading; indcution of sophisticated gadgetry for detection of explosives; improved communication network; etc.

Between 01.10.2001 (when this incident took place) and 15.11.2001, 90 militants/suspects have been apprehended. During this very period, 367 militants (including 93 foreign mercenaries) have also been killed.

(e) and (f) Besies appointing Shri K.C. Pant as Government of India's Principal Interlocutor with all groups and outfits in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government has kept its doors open for talks with all those who are ready to eschew the path of violence.

Death of main accused of Bofors Scam

* 53. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the main accused in the fifteen years old Bofors Scam investigation case arc no longer alive;

(b) if so, who are the main accused in the case, who have died in between; and

(c) what is Government's decision on the question of proceeding with the case?